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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7642
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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 7483
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 9830
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 4663
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 7991
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 002665

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - PRESIDENT OBAMA'S VISIT
TO CHINA

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¶1. LEAD STORIES: All Wednesday morning papers front-paged the summit between President Obama and Chinese President Hu in Beijing on Tuesday.

¶2. "Can New Era Be Established through Prioritizing Practical Benefits?" On yesterday's U.S.-China summit, the top circulation, moderate Yomiuri editorialized (11/18): "Almost 30 years have passed since the normalization of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and China. It can be said that under the Obama administration, the two countries have entered into a new era in which they prioritize practical benefits while acknowledging the differences between their systems. Placing the emphasis on practical benefits is fine, but the U.S. should continue to press China to respect principles such as liberty, democracy, and human rights."

¶3. "The 'G2 Era': Relations Deepening but with Limits:" The liberal Asahi argued in an editorial (11/18): "President Obama has spent more time in China than any other country during his trip to Asia. The Chinese greeted the President with all leaders assembled, including President Hu. This episode symbolizes the arrival of a 'G2 era' of the U.S. and China.... However, 'America's return to Asia,' as pronounced by the President during his ongoing trip, naturally contains a cautionary message to China, whose influence and presence are growing in this region. The partnership between the U.S. and China will not necessarily deepen without encountering any

difficulties. Japan need not worry about being sidelined by the 'G2.'

14. "U.S. Responsible for Asking China to Shoulder More Responsibility" The liberal Mainichi insisted (11/18): "It is clear that the Obama administration has moved toward attaching more importance to China. However, if the intention is to build a system for coordination in Asia that only involves the U.S. and China ... this will not bring stability to Asia.... We welcome the fact that U.S. diplomacy is placing more emphasis on Asia. It is a matter of course for China to expand its influence. However, if such moves turn into a competition for hegemony or end up being a coordination mechanism just between the two nations, they will run the risk of undermining regional stability. The U.S. bears a heavy responsibility."

15. "U.S., China Must Fulfill Responsibilities on Environmental Front" The business-oriented Nikkei wrote (11/18): "The U.S. and China announced a joint statement aimed at ensuring 'sustainable and balanced trade and growth.' They also pledged cooperation in combating global warming.... What is regrettable is that they have failed to come up with concrete goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions for a post Kyoto-Protocol framework. While the two countries did an excellent job of broadcasting their bilateral cooperation in combating global warming, it's hard to say that the two nations are fulfilling their responsibilities as the world's two largest greenhouse gas emitters."

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